

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO TREASURY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 138451

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM BUENOS AIRES DTD 14 JUN 1977
DTG O 142241Z JUN 7 QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 4444

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO ASST SEC TODMAN GRENADA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, PORF, SHUM, US, AR

SUBJECT: GOA DEMARCHE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 4315, (B) STATE 136133

1. MINISTER OF ECONOMY MARTINEZ DE HOZ CALLED IN
CHARGE THIS AFTERNOON TO RELATE DETAILS OF HIS RECENT
CONVERSATIONS WITH SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL AND DR. BRZEZINSKI.
HIS ACCOUNT WAS ESSENTIALLY IDENTICAL WITH THAT REPORTED BY
THE US PRINCIPALS IN OTHER MESSAGES. HE STATED THAT HE
BELIEVED THE EFFORT OF THESE OFFICIALS TO PROMOTE
OBSERVATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, SPECIFICALLY IN THE CONTEXT
OF VOTES ON ARGENTINE LOANS IN THE IFIS, WERE BASICALLY
FRIENDLY GESTURES WHICH MERITED GOA RESPONSE IN KIND.
HE STATED THAT FACTS WOULD SHOW THAT THERE IS A REASSURING
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TREND TOWARD NORMALIZATION AND THE RULE OF LAW IN ARGENTINA.

2. HE STATED THAT THE ARGENTINE GESTURE IN RESPONSE TO
THOSE OF THE US OFFICIALS WOULD BE THE RELEASE THIS
EVENING OF SEVERAL STATEMENTS BY THE GOVERNMENT
DETAILING WHAT GOA HAS DONE TO PROCESS ACCUSED
TERRORISTS THROUGH COURT SYSTEM, TO MOVE TO REESTABLISH LINE

OF OPTION TO LEAVE COUNTRY, AND TO SUPPRESS THE FASCIST
MAGAZINE CABILDO TEMPORARILY. HE STATED THAT AMBASSADOR
AJA ESPIL WAS PRESENTING DOCUMENTATION TO DEPT ON JUNE 14
AND PRESENTED CHARGE WITH COPIES.

3. CHARGE THANKED MINISTER FOR HIS COURTESY. THE US
VOTE ON THE IBRD LOAN TO BE CONSIDERED JUNE 16 WAS NOT
DISCUSSED.

4. COMMENT: WE ARE SATISFIED MARTINEZ DE HOZ SINCERELY
BELIEVES HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ARGENTINA IS DEFINITELY
IMPROVING. OUR OWN ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION (BUENOS
AIRES 4442) CONCLUDED THAT THE WORSENING TREND UNLEASHED BY
THE GRAIVER AFFAIR HAS BEEN ARRESTED AND THERE ARE INCREASING
SIGNS OF CONCERN WITHIN THE VIDELA GOVERNMENT OVER THE PROBLEMS
CREATED BY COUNTER-TERRORISM.

5. DATA PRESENTED BY MARTINEZ DE HOZ DO NOT ADDRESS
QUESTIONS OF ABUSES, BUT SUGGEST THAT, AT LEAST TO SOME
DEGREE, COURT SYSTEM HAS BEEN FUNCTIONING AND IS BEING USED
BY THE EXECUTIVE IN SUBVERSIVE CASES. WE ARE
IMPRESSED WITH THE DEGREE TO WHICH MARTINEZ DE HOZ HAS BEEN
ABLE TO ELICIT APPARENTLY POSITIVE GOA RESPONSES IN
SENSITIVE HUMAN RIGHTS AREAS (ALBEIT IN ORDER TO
ELICIT A FAVORABLE US VOTE), AND DO NOT BELIEVE THAT
THESE RESPONSES SHOULD BE UNDER-ESTIMATED BECAUSE
OF THEIR LIMITED SCOPE.

6. HOWEVER US MAY VOTE ON JUNE 16, WE BELIEVE IT
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IMPORTANT THAT DEPT, AND POSSIBLY EVEN SECRETARY IN
BILATERAL, REACT FAVORABLY TO THIS CONSCIOUS STEP BY
GOA TO ADDRESS HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION.
CHAPLIN UNQTE
CHRISTOPHER

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